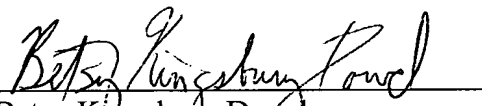


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment prior to examination of the above-referenced application. Applicants have incorporated the amendments to the original claims corresponding to the Annexes from the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 by providing Substitute Sheets 18-23 attached hereto. Applicants have further amended the annexed claims listed in the Substitute Sheets to remove multiple dependencies and reference numerals from the claims. In addition, Applicants have added section headings to the specification, as well as a claim of priority to the International Application, in order to conform with U.S. practice. Applicants have also corrected typographical errors on page 17 of the specification. These amendments to page 17 were also previously submitted during the examination phase of the corresponding PCT application. A copy of the amendment from the Annexes in German accompanied by an English translation has been submitted with the filing of this national phase application. Applicants believe that the claims and specification as amended are now in proper form for examination.

In view of the foregoing submission, examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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